

Dear Madam, Dear Sir,

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 02/24/2022 BY 12345678

Enclosed for your kind and urgent consideration and review, the following:

1. A letter about a US supported ISIS commander and his group in the Syrian Desert, Area 55.
2. A policy recommendation for Syria.

Wishing you and the Syrian people the best of 2022.

Sincerely,

Mahmoud "Madi" Diab

US Representative

The Tribal Council of Palmyra and Badia in Syria

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SUBJECT: Eliminating ISIS in the Syrian Desert

To whom it may concern,

This letter is to call your attention to a confirmed report attesting to the collaboration of Gen. Muhannad Al-Talaa – commander of Maghaweir Al-Thowra Militia, the local partner of the US led Global Coalition Against ISIS in the Eastern Syrian Desert – with ISIS in the Syrian Desert and Deir-Ezzor areas, by providing them with “financing, weapons and intelligence”. The Tribal Council of Palmyra and Badia (TCPB) is requesting appropriate action to stop this grave concern.

This information is confirmed by Mr. Oqba Al-Battah – former finance head and Zakat fund manager of ISIS. On December 11, 2021, he tried to recruit Mr. Mahmoud Diab the US representative of TCPB to work for Al-Talaa. He suggested that resisting to collaborate is useless because “the Americans inside Al-Tanf outpost are fully aware of the operations of Gen. Al-Talaa with ISIS and are acquiescent to everything”. Mr. Diab refused to connect with Al-Battah, and the liaison between them – TCPB member Mr. Shukri Al-Shehab – died on December 14, 2021, with no prior symptoms of any disease. Al-Battah is currently holding direct talks with other TCPB members.

Mr. Al-Battah is working with Gen. Al-Talaa in Area 55. He used to work directly under Al-Talaa inside the outpost but was reported to have fled Area 55 and disappeared in regime held areas when his ties with ISIS were exposed early 2019. However, Al-Battah never left Area 55 and continues to coordinate Al-Talaa’s operations with ISIS. He was last publicly seen side by side with Gen. Al-Talaa when the latter addressed the civilian’s sit in Rukban on December 13, 2021.

The violations of Gen. Al-Talaa and his ISIS team continue to cause the suffering of thousands of civilians who live in Area 55. Since working with the US there, Al-Talaa caused more than 70,000 civilians to return to regime retribution to escape slow death by malnutrition and shortage of medical care while the camp resources are directed to support ISIS. TCPB has exhausted its direct communication channels with the US outpost in Area 55, and is now reaching out to all those in the US administration who are concerned with the US presence in Area 55 and the US involvement with the Syrian civil war to take decisive action against Al-Talaa and his ISIS team.

TCPB is looking for accountability for the crimes of Al-Talaa and his ISIS operatives by requesting:

- Their removal from Area 55 and the Syrian Desert as a whole.
- Subjecting Al-Talaa and his operative to an appropriate legal due process.
- Instating any appropriate commander from the Syrian Democratic Forces in his place.



TCPB plans to go public on this file and the violations committed by Al-Talaa by middle February 2022; TCPB will also reach out to other international actors if accountability and justice are not served by the US. We understand this action maybe disturbing to the operations of the US against Iran in Syria and counterproductive to our very own efforts in fighting against the Iranian influence in the Syrian Desert. We are deeply opposed to this option, but this makes sense as a genuine last resort before all civilians are displaced from the Syrian Desert.

We trust that American morality and values will, as always, preside over challenges in policy and operation considerations. We are confident that you will take action against this group, given the scale of the damage caused by Gen. Al-Talaa and his ISIS operatives to the civilians in Area 55.

The Tribal Council of Palmyra and Badia

Maher Al-Ali

President



مجلس عشائر تدمر والبادية السورية

POLICY RECOMMENDATION

A COALITION OF MINORITIES IN SYRIA (CoMiS)

In order for the United States to end its military engagement in Syria and bring American soldiers back home, a security arrangement must be in place to guarantee the safety and security of US interests and its' regional allies, Israel, Jordan, Turkey and other concerned states. This document provides a roadmap to end ISIS and Iranian terrorism, counter Sunni extremism in Syria, and press Assad to effectively engage in application of UN Security Council Resolution 2254

A Coalition of Minorities in Syria (CoMiS) looks to expand the current authority areas of the Autonomous Administration in the North-East of Syria (AANES) and the Syrian Democratic Council (SDC), which are mainly comprised of Kurdish political and military formations. To include in a phased operation: (a) the Eastern Syrian Desert areas which are populated by the Syrian Bedouin minority along the Iraqi border and (b) the Swuaida Governorate in Southern Syria which is populated by the Syrian Druz minority. Thus, forming a *coalition of Kurds, Bedouins and Druz minorities*.

Goals of the coalition:

- Effectively eliminate ISIS from Syria, by extending physical control of the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) over ISIS activity areas in the Syrian Desert and Syrian South near the Israeli border.
- Block Iranian land routes to the Mediterranean and end Iran's support to the Syrian regime, Hezbollah in Lebanon and Hamas in Palestine.
- Leverage internal Syrian dynamics to counterweight the political obstacles imposed by the Syrian regime to implement the Security Council Resolution 2254.

Key requirements to facilitate CoMiS:

- Political support from the US and commitment to its local partners – SDC – that it will not abandon them and leave them vulnerable to retaliation by the Assad regime, while supporting their ongoing dialog with Russia.
- Refine the choice of US partners in the Syrian Desert. Two Syrian commanders work with the US Al-Tanf outpost. One (Fareed Al Kassem, in favor of CoMiS and working with the SDF) has proposed a one-month military operation to unite the Desert with the North-East. The other opposes it (Mr. Muhannad Al-Talaa), views AANES and SDF as enemy organizations and opposes welcoming Druz personnel in the desert; he opposed similar action in 2016 and has a confirmed relationship with ISIS – the SDF is aware of this and crossed him out as a potential partner in this operation. Remove Mr. Al-Talaa from the Syrian Desert to enable cohesive action for CoMiS. Instate Fareed Al Kassem or another suitable alternative from the ranks of the SDF.
- Support facilitating the economic viability of the new united region under the leadership of the SDC.

CoMiS is a sound security guarantee for all countries in the region. Eliminating ISIS and curbing the Iranian influence and the threat of the Muslim Brotherhood fundamentalism in Syria supported by Turkey. Turkey in return should get a security guarantee that the Kurds in Syria will not support the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK, a listed Kurdish terrorist organization fighting against Turkey). Both the tribal leaders of the central desert and the Druz community leaders declared their approval of AANES. CoMiS also promises a controlled democracy in parallel to the dictatorship of the Syrian regime. With economic viability, CoMiS can evolve to be a gravitational power that would draw adjacent towns and villages, initially to escape the conditions of being under the Assad regime, and also because CoMiS promises no retribution or oppression of other Syrians regardless of their ethnic or religious background.